Shojo Beat Manga

Sand Chronicles

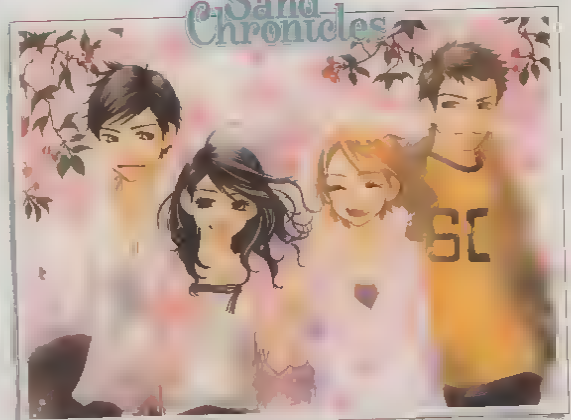
a Art by

Hinako Ashihara

3

Shojo Beat
MANGA FROM THE HEART

THE REAL DRAMA BEGINS IN...



Revisiting scenes and people from earlier days drives Ann to an impulsive act of desperation. Who will stand by her now? And will she ever make peace with her past—and herself?

8

Story & Art by
Hinako Ashihara

Can the sands of time bury the pain of the past?

WINTER, AGE 26: PRAYER

Sand Chronicles

Volume 8

Contents

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Story thus far...

After he parents' divorce, Ann moves to rural Okinawa with his mother. When Ann's mother commits suicide, Ann is left with his friends Daigo and wealthy heiress Fuji and Shika, and a growing appreciation of how fine these Ann moves back to Tokyo to live with his father and his new wife, and distance and time that loom Ann and Daigo apart. Until circumstances...

After breaking up with Fuji-go, Ann moves on with his life. She graduates from college and gets a job working at a corporation. While commuting from his new home, he sees a girl she's seen on the train many times before and who appears to be Daigo. They plan to marry, but when Ann challenges her fiancé over his lack of compassion, he breaks off the engagement. Then while on a Christmas vacation, Ann sets out on a journey to visit the Nara Sand Museum, which she visited with her mother shortly before her mother committed suicide...

Main characters

Shika Tachibana
Fuji's younger sister. Currently studying abroad in Canada.

Fuji Tachibana
Fuji was in love with Ann for a long time but is now dating his cousin.

Daigo Sakamura
Daigo got a teaching job at elementary school in Okayama.

Ann Minase
Ann's love with her father's new wife and her little half sister.

Vol. 8

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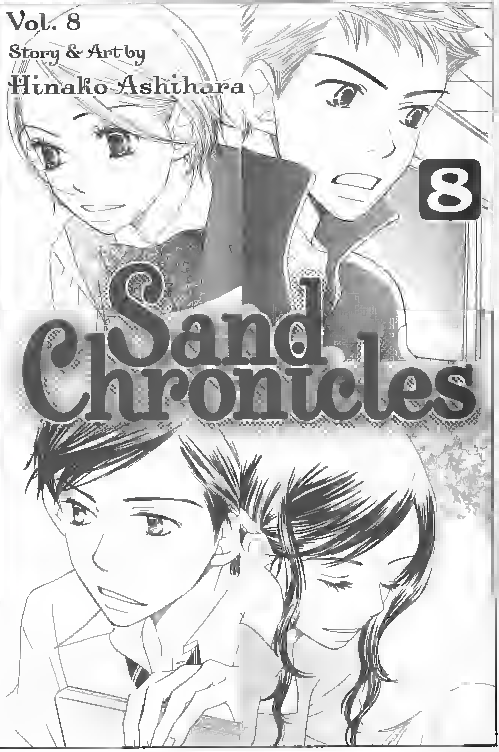


8

Sand Chronicles

Sand
Chronicles

I'M IN DARKNESS.

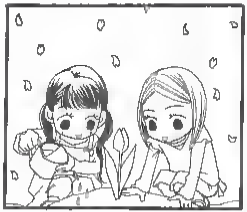
IN PITCH-BLACK DARKNESS

I CAN'T FIND MY WAY OUT.

KALK

MOM...

CAN I...



FWOOOO
THE TRAIN WILL REMAIN AT OKAYAMA STATION
KLAK
OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY AND ANY INCONVENIENCE.
DUE TO THE HEAVY RAIN.
KLAK
KLAK
OKAYAMA STATION
WELCOME TO OKAYAMA.
KLAK
DUP DUP DUP
NOW...
FWOOO
FWOOOO
HONNNK
CAN I STOP TRYING SO HARD?
NEXT STOP OKAYAMA
KLAK
KLAK
BUT WAY BEHIND SCHEDULE!
IF WE'D TAKEN THE NOZOMI WE'D ALREADY BE AT THEIR PLACE
THE SLEEPER CAR SURE WAS COMFORTABLE ENOUGH!
(Mm hmm)
FINALLY !!

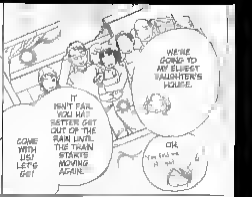
OH, FROM THE TRAIN...
Lah Hah
JAPAN'S FAMOUS...
AUTOMATIC DOORS...
THEY'RE PICKING US UP!
Come on!
SO YOU HAVE ANY PLACE TO GO?
THEY DON'T KNOW WHEN THE TRAIN WILL BE ON ITS WAY
WOW!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUH?
WHY DON'T YOU...
...COME WITH US?
I HAVE AN IDEA.
OH! THERE'S HER DAUGHTER.
IT'S BEEN 14 YEARS SINCE MOM TOOK ME
I'LL SEE THE 2ND-YEAR HEAD-ISLAND IN ARMA
T. M. N OKAYAMA.
WHAT?
WHY CAN'T I GET THERE?
I REALLY WANTED TO SEE TITAN
...BUT I ARRIVED ON THE WRONG TRAIN.
SOMEDAY AFTER WE'VE BOTH MET SOMEONE ELSE
AND GOTTEN MARRIED AND HAD KIDS,
WE'LL BE ABLE TO TALK ABOUT THIS AND LAUGH.
I WAS IN TITAN...
...AND IN A TANGTAN.
Just like always.
OKAYAMA...

WHERE'D YOU BUY THOSE CLOTHES?
YOU'RE GOING TO NINA'?
I DON'T KNOW!
NINA SAID MUSEUM?
NOPE.
NEVER HEARD OF IT

NO, NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO—
OKAY
TERU!
YOU'VE GOT THE DAY OFF TOMORROW, WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE?
WHY DON'T YOU STAY THE NIGHT?
YOU CAN LEAVE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
THE TRAIN COULD BE STUCK HERE FOR A WHILE.
THE MUSEUM WITH THAT BAND WHATCHA-MACALLIT WILL BE CLOSED!

DON'T MENTION IT!
NO PROBLEM! NO PROBLEM!

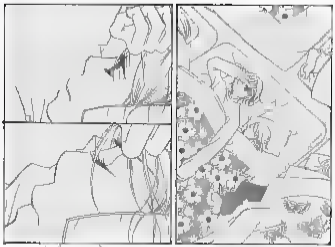
OH NO. I DON'T WANT TO INTRUDE
DON'T WORRY. WE DON'T BITE.
COME WITH US! LET'S GET


WE'RE GOING TO MY BUDDY YAMAMOTEN'S HOUSE.
IT WOULD BE UNFAIR IF YOU HAD TO SIT IN THE RAIN UNTIL THE TRAIN STARTS MOVING AGAIN.
OH, I'm fine with it, too!

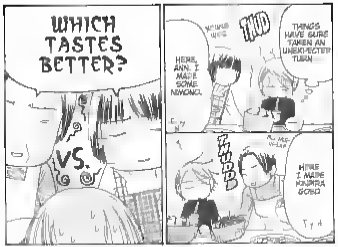
OH, STRANDED BY THE RAIN, WERE YOU?
OKAY

COME ON!

HI!
LOOK, KAORU & HERE!
NO PROBLEM! STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!
IF YOU CAN STAND THE NOISE THAT IS.



LET'S MEET FOR LUNCH SOMETIME IN TOKYO, KHEIN-TEUCH!!
THE WEATHER THE NEXT DAY WAS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
TO ALL DRIVE SAFELY


WHICH TASTES BETTER?
VS.
HERE, ANN. I MADE SOME NOYANCI.
THINGS HAVE GONE TAMIEN AN UNEXPECTED TURN.
HMM I MADE KOJIRRA GOHO

Can you hold my umbrella, dear
Okay, Lemon!
Let me help
Can you make Lemon?
Real m o ym

A SCHOOL ZONE!
TSUKU
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE SAKURA SECOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
OH...
LET'S GO!
NO!!
I'M NOT READY TO SEE HIM!!
SWOOSH
THAT'S WHERE DAIGO TEACHES
SAKURA? NOPE, I HAVE NOT
HOLD ON A SEC
THERE IT IS. NOT FAR FROM HERE.
NO! NO! FORGET I MENTIONED IT!
I was just kidding!

VROOM
PEDAL TO THE METAL!!
YOU GOT IT
YOU CAN LET ME OFF AT TSUMOSH STATION I'LL TAKE THE TRAIN FROM THERE
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
THE NINA BAN! MUSEUM?
PAY
SEE
VROOM
HERE WE GO.
CARS AREN'T ST@CKED I'LL RIDE THIS BIKE BEHIND SCHOOL HOUSING
SPEED
I'M TAKIN A SHORTCUT

~ at 26 P ages ~

Welcome to volume 3!
Thanks for reading!
This chapter feels like the end to me. The next chapter is an epilogue. The main story comes to an end with this volume—but I've written some extra material for Botanama.
It turned out to be pretty long. I know it's a little (a lot) cheating, but altogether this series will reach ten volumes. I hope you'll read them all!

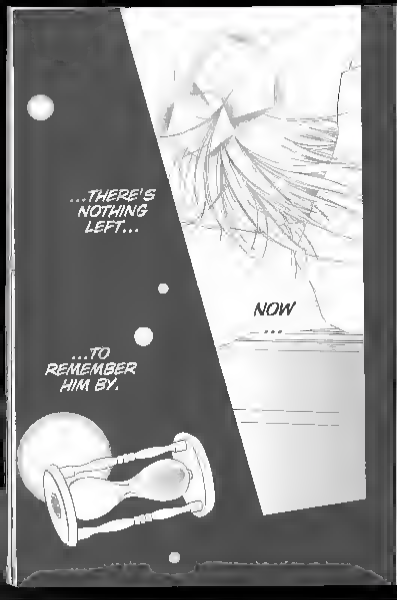
TEACHING JAPANESE
TEACHING PHYS. ED
SCOLDING HIS STUDENTS
LAUGHING AND CRYING WITH THEM
WE GOT TOO WIDE!!
LOOK HOW LOW THESE WERE AMIS!!
WHOA!
THAT TIPPING OVER THERE WAS MY FAVORITE!!
MINE TOO!!
WHOOSH
THE TRACK IS SO SMALL!!
RUN!!
I CAN REALLY PICTURE THIS HERE

NOOOO
NOOOO
WAIT!
HMM..
ALL RIGHT
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...
I'M TURNING YOU IN.
BIP
YOU CAN'T BE FIRST FATHETIC!
SECRET TRAINING? FOR... HONG FU?
YUH!!!
HA HA HA
GYA HA HA HA
I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME
CHUNG
ANYWAY, I'M JUST HERE TO TRAIN-N SECRET
WHAT
BIP
NOW I'M GONNA TURN YOU IN
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
THE MESS WALLIS THATAWAY
Mom, I could go for some pizza right now
CAPTAIN!
Dad, wanna watch wifey's broadcast
YAAY!
ARE YOU BURGLARS?

WHAT'S WRONG?
...BUT HE'S ALL RIGHT
HE'S NOT TOO SMART...
UM...
NUTH NO
THAT HOURGLASS
...FROM THE YOKAI MUSEUM?
BUT...
...RAIGO SAYS.
IF I KEEP AT IT, I'LL GET IT SOMEDAY
I'M THE ONLY ONE IN MY CLASS WHO CAN'T DO FLIPIN'
RAIGO KITAMURA!
MY TEACHER.!
UH-HUH!
RAIGO ...?

HUG
UH, LADY?
THIS BOY IS A PART OF DAIGO'S LIFE.
!!AIGO TOOK US THERE ON A FIELD TRIP
HAYATO AND SHUN BOUGHT SOME FOR SOUVENIRS.
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY
YOU'RE WRONG
THIS IS ENOUGH
MR. KITAMURA THESE MAY??
HOW M...
THIS IS ENOUGH
OH, HE IS FINE. THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN SAY ABOUT HIM.
NO!
AND GUESS WHAT?

Hi
BYE.
IT'S KIND OF BUT ANY BEAT UP THOUGH.
Y'KNOW WHAT? YOU CAN HAVE IT!
HUH? o
REALLY?
I PROMISE!
YOU HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO TELL ANYONE I WAS HERE.
BUT...
YEAH?
YAAY!!
DEAL!
DEAL!
HEY, YOU BETTER LEAVE BEFORE THE TEACHERS GET HERE
YEAH.
...YOU'RE RIGHT
HE'S GONNA GET MARRIED SOON!!
TO ANOTHER TEACHER! MR. YOSHI!
IT'S S'POSED TO BE A SECRET
...BUT EVERYONE CAN TELL BY HOW THEY ACT!
HE'S FOUND HAPPINESS
OH, I SEE


...THERE'S NOTHING LEFT...
NOW
...TO REMEMBER HIM BY.

NO
I'M JUST GLAD TO KNOW HE'S HAPPY
THAT'S ENOUGH.
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THAT GUY?
THINK
LET'S GO
I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

YOU'VE GOT A HANGOVER? YOU HARDLY DRANK AT ALL!
DAIGO YOSHI
CONSIDERING HOW MUCH YOU DRANK LAST NIGHT YOU GUYS ARE FULL OF ENERGY THIS MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!!
WAKE WAKE
HARDLY DRANK?
MR. YOSHI
YOU LEFT YOUR CELL PHONE AT MY PLACE LAST NIGHT
THE BATTERY RAN OUT
OH.
I ALMOST FORGOT
DING DONG
TAPE ROOM
VROOM
WHAT A RECKLESS DRIVER!
DAIGO !!

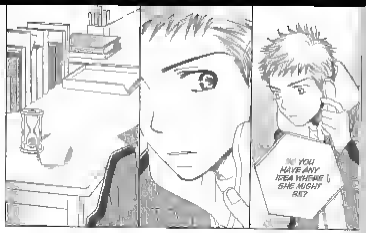
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU SINCE YESTERDAY! I CALLED YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR APARTMENT, YOUR CELL PHONE
WHERE WERE YOU?!
...WEEK IT SNOW.
THROB THROB
...IDIOT !!
AND THEN I WAS AT A COLLEAGUE'S PLACE DRINKING UNTIL DAWN.
AND MY CELL PHONE WAS OUT OF POWER AND
SCHOOL WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER YESTERDAY
AHH!!
WHY WOULD SHE ?
SHE HASN'T COME HOME.
HER GRANDMOTHER CALLED, SAID'S MYSELF SICK.
I'M CALLING ABOUT ADAM.
IS SHE THERE?

THROB THROB
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE !!!

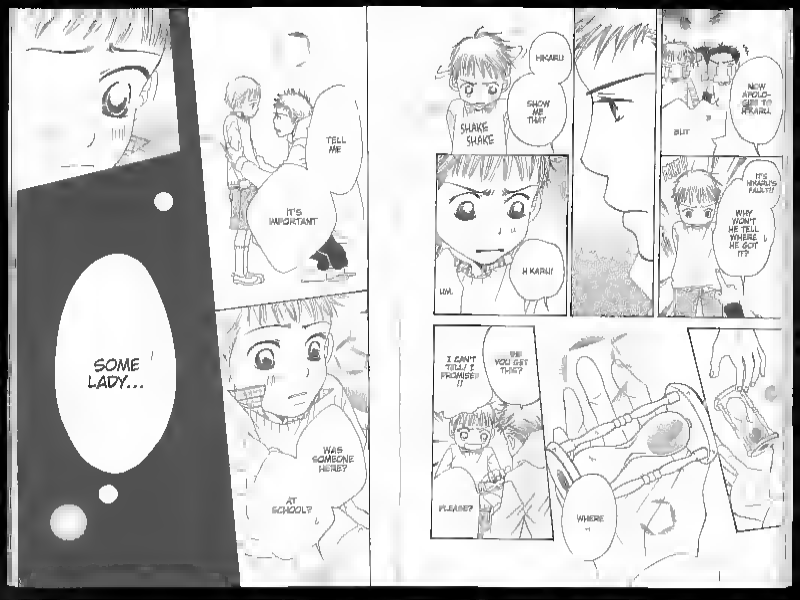
THROB
HUH?!
I OVERSLEPT
RUMOR HAS IT MORE THAN ONE STUDENT HAS BEEN YOU TW! BUYING LATE-NIGHT SNACKS AT THE LOCAL CONVENIENCE STORE
OR DID YOU SPEND ANOTHER NIGHT AT MR. YOSH ST?
@-KOI MORNING, MR. OKAMOTO!!!
KITA-MURA— YOUR HAIR IS A MESS

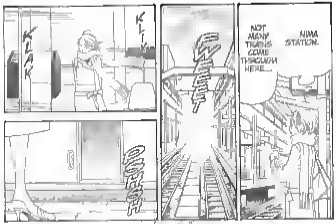
WHY'S SHE CALLING ME AT WORK?
YOU...
HELLO?!
ON THE PHONE
YOUR MOM IS
HUH?!
OH
WELL THAT'S
DAIGO !!

I DID NOT!!
THEN HOW COME YOU HAVE IT?
IT'S HAWKE'S FAULT!!
HE STOLE HAYATO'S HOURGLASS!!!
DIDN'T YOU WEAR THIS HELL?!!
KNOCK IT OFF!
To your room
SMASH
SOMEONE GAVE IT TO ME!!
UH-HUH
SEE? YOU CAN'T!!
TELL ME WHO THEN!!
IT'S YADO!!!
Yeah Yeah
SOMEONE FOUND IT BY THE SHOE LOCKERS
...ANY
...PUT IT IN THE LOST AND FOUND!
HAYATO.
THIS IS YOUR HOURGLASS
Here
Ah...


DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT BE?

3-1
CHATTER CHATTER
I TOLD YOU
I WON'T TAKE IT FROM YOU!!
CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

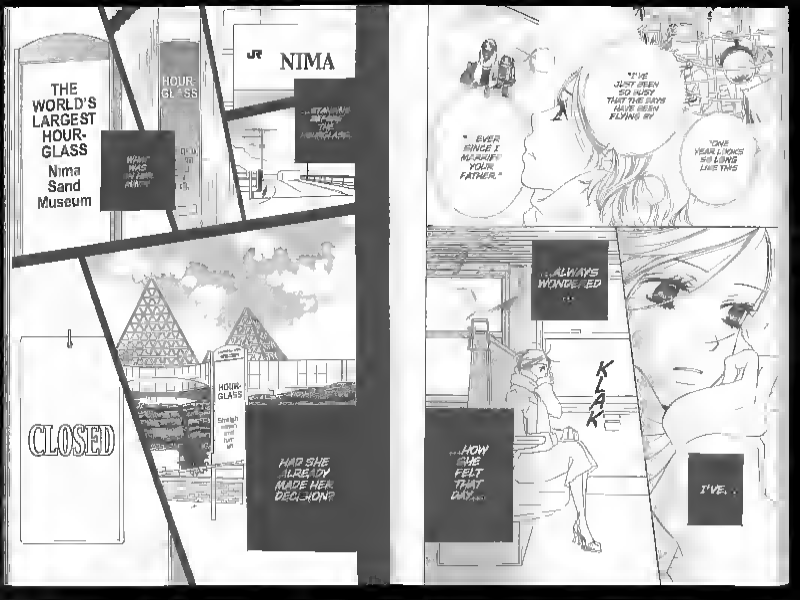

SOME LADY...
TELL ME
IT'S IMPORTANT
WAS SOMEONE HERE?
AT SCHOOL?
HIKARU
SHOW ME THAT
SHAKE SHAKE
UM.
H KARU!
NOW SHOULD GIVE TO HIKARU.
BUT
IT'S HIKARU'S FAULT!!
WHY WON'T HE TELL WHERE U GOT IT?
I CAN'T TELL! I PROMISE!!
WHERE YOU GET THIS?
FLAME?
WHERE


KLAK
KLAK
NIMA STATION.
NOT MANY TRAINS COME THROUGH HERE...

"THE NIMA SAN-IN MUSEUM!"
KLAK
MOM!
I CAN SEE THE OCEAN!!
THE OCEAN!
"YEAH!"
"THAT WAS A GIANT MEGALODON THAT MEASURED A WHALE YEAR. SHALL WE STEP BY AND LOOK AT THE SIZE CHARACTER?"

I WISH I COULD REPAY YOU SOMEHOW.
THANKS ANY WAY
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T WANT ME TO TAKE YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE MUSEUM?
BUY ME LUNCH
NEXT TIME YOU VISIT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
YEAH IT'S JUST A COUPLE STOPS BY TRAIN.

MODERN THIS?
HEY! NEXT TIME WE'LL EXPLORE A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL!
My is cute.
OKAY
VROOM
HMM


THE WORLD'S LARGEST HOUR-GLASS
Nima Sand Museum
HOUR GLASS
JR
NIMA
...STATION
BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE.
WHAT WAS SHE LIKE BACK THEN?
CLOSED
HOUR-GLASS
HAD SHE ALREADY MADE HER DECISION?
"EVER SINCE I HEARD OF YOUR FATHER."
"I'VE JUST BEEN SO BUSY THAT THE DAYS HAVE BEEN FLYING BY.
"OUR YEAR LOOKS SO LONG LIKE THIS
...ALWAYS WONDERED...
KLAK
...HOW SHE FELT THAT DAY...
I'VE...

WHOOOEEE!
ZSSSHHH
KOTOGAHAMA BEACH IS NEAR HERE
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT TIME
SSSSHH
IT'S COLIN!
MY FEET ARE ASLEEP
IVIGO AND I CAME HERE WHEN WE WERE 20.
OH THE SAND REALLY VIBES BELOW! LISTEN! IT SINGS!

WHAAAT ?!!
SSSSHH
OH
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M ...
SO TIRED
I'VE NEVER FELT
TUNK TUNK
TUNK TUNK
SO EMPTY IN MY LIFE.

SMASH
"YOU'VE GOT TO BE STRONG."
"YOU CAN'T RUN FROM YOUR FEARS."
"YOU CAN'T JUST WHIMPER TO GET WHAT YOU WANT."
YOU MIGHT CONSIDER THERAPY
"YOU'RE HURTING YOURSELF TOO MUCH."
THUMP
OW!!
THAT HURT!
MUST HAVE STEPPED ON SOME THING
STOMP
DAMMIT!
SQUEAK I SAID, #!%@BEAR!!
TAIGO SAID IT DEPENDED ON THE WEATHER, HUH?
THUMP
HUH?
...LIKE IT DID THEN!
IT DOESN'T SING
THUMP
THUMP
YOU DON'T CRY OVER EVERYTHING
THUMP
CHRISTMAS? HAVE TO BE JUST RIGHT FOR SANTA TO SQUEAK."
SHRINK
"IT WON'T SING IF IT'S HURT!?"
"SIGH! THAT STUPID SQUEAKING IS CALLED 'WILLIS MAN.'"

DRIP
D-RRRD

"JUST I'M A WALK."
OH
"OH..."
I'M SCARED. I'M IN PAIN.
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
I'M SCARED. I'M IN PAIN.
TAKE ME WITH YOU.
"CAN I GO WITH YOU?"
I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.
I FELL...
SSSHH
I'M BACK IN THE DARKNESS...
WHERE
ARE YOU GOING, MOM?
SLEEPY
OH...

"I'LL GIVE YOU MY BASH!"
"YOU LOOK TIRED ANN. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?"
"KEEP IN TOUCH!!"
"I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU."
"ANN!"
"ANN!!"

"GOODBYE!!"
"OKAY"
"HAVE A GOOD DAY!"
"I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY."
"NO YOU STAY HOME!"

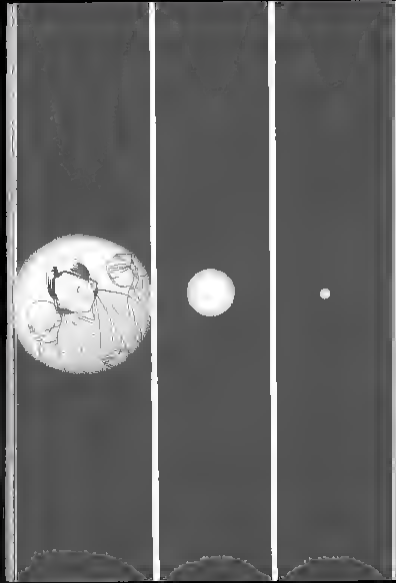
WHAT...
BA-
BUMP
GASP
BA-
...AM I DOING?
BA-
BUMP
"ANN!"

...TO EVERY-ONE!
SOME-BODY!!
CLICK
...THE SAME PAIN...
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE
THIS
BLEEDING WON'T STOP!
...NO, MORE PAIN...

AND THEN...
...THE WORLD WENT DARK.
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
!
HSN
SLNP
PLEASE!
HELP!!

I'M IN DARKNESS.

IN PITCH-BLACK DARKNESS.


"NO, YOU STAY HOME."
I THINK
THAT WAS HER WAY OF SAYING SHE LOVED ME

YOU'RE STRONG!
LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR ONCE AND FOR ALL
YOU DON'T TAKE AFTER MIWAKO
I TOLD YOU
NO! YOU WOULD NEVER DIE SO EASILY!!
I'M NOT DEAD!!
I...
YOU STUPID STUPID GIRL!!

GRANDMA ?
STOP THAT!!
I WAS SO WORRIED!!
OW!
FIRST MIWAKO, AND NOW YOU! YOU IDIOT!
ANN!

YOU'RE NOT ALONE!
STRAIGHTEN UP!!

PLIP
NGH.
AAAH
AAAH
"YOU CAN'T."
"TELL YOUR MOM TO WORK HARDER ANYMORE."

BE HAPPY. PROMISE ME!
"NEVER GIVE UP."

"YOU CAN'T ASK SOMEONE IN THAT STATE TO WORK ANY HARDER."
"SHE WORKED AND WORKED—AND WORKED HERSELF TO MAKE HOW SHE'S WORKED HERSELF OUT."
"YOU DON'T HAVE TO ALWAYS TOP YOUR PREVIOUS!!"
"YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD."
"THE PERSON I FELL IN LOVE WITH ISN'T WEAK."
"...AND NEVER GIVE UP."
"KEEP TRYING."

I
WON'T
GIVE
UP.

I ONLY—
YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON I THOUGHT OF
ANY LATER, AND I HATE TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
THANK YOU FOR FINDING HER.
I
DIDN'T WANT TO DRAG YOU INTO THIS, BUT

SHE'LL BE FINE.
ALL THESE YEARS
SHE'S CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.
BUT YOU'RE FREE NOW
SO...
...AND BE HAPPY
THANK YOU...
FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR HER.
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH
I THINK
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT NOW
YOU'RE THE REASON
ANN SURVIVED UNTIL TODAY

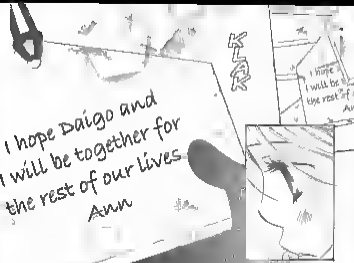
YES?
RANMA?
SQUEAK
I THOUGHT I HEARD AKANE'S VOICE
SAW
IT'S IMPORTANT
TO ANN THAT
YOU BE HAPPY
POW
SQUEAK

YOU WERE MY REASON TO LIVE
WISH
VOTIVE TABLE 500
I HAVE SO MANY MY WISHES
WISH TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL
THIS YEAR
Mamoko
I'M SAD

HMM...
MUST HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION.
TENDERNESS
CONNECTION
LOVE
I WONDER.
AFFECTION
NO SINGLE WORD CAN DESCRIBE HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.

BECAUSE
YOU ONLY GET ONE WISH.
I JUST WROTE A NEW ONE
I DON'T NEED IT'S ONE ANYMORE

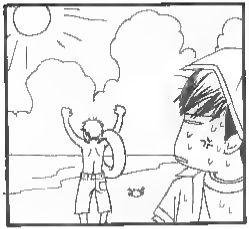
I hope Daigo and I will be together for the rest of our lives
Ann
"I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU!"


I hope Daigo and I will be together for the rest of our lives
Ann
I hope I will be the rest of Ann

I hope Daigo and I will be together for the rest of our lives Ann
HERE.
HUH?
YES?
EXCUSE ME, MRS
SHOULDN'T YOU WAIT UNTIL THE TOKYO FESTIVAL?
DOULE YOU SIGN TH IS?
IS THAT YOU ANN?
NO.
CRACK CRACK
YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP!
RING! RING!

PRAY FOR HIM
Please, please, please, let Daigo be happy.
Ann
NOW! THERE'S ONLY
... ONE THING
I CAN DO FOR THE ONE I LOVE.
KRAK! KRAK!
KRAK!
KRAK!
I hope Daigo and I will be together for the rest of our lives.
Ann

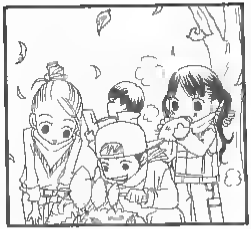
SAND CHRONICLES: EPILOGUE



SAND CHRONICLES: EPILOGUE

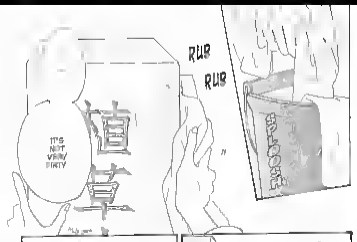
"DEAR SHIKA...
"HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

"HOW CAN I EVEN BEGIN TO TELL YOU...
"...EVERY THING THAT'S BEEN GOING ON INSIDE OF ME?"
SIGH



I'M SORRY
I COULDN'T FACE YOU UNTIL NOW
"I THINK...

"...I HATED HER ALL THESE YEARS...
"SHE LEAVING ME ALONE.
"SAVE MYSELF FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO FORGIVE HER."


RUB
RUB
IT'S NOT VERY TASTY

I'M SORRY MOM
I WET
...GRANDMA AND GRANDPA COME AND CLEAN IT ALL THE TIME
THEY'RE SO THOUGHTFUL...

YES...
YOU COULD SAY THAT...

SIR! SHE'S NOT FROM A DINER?

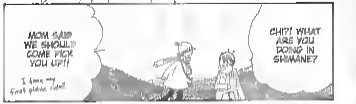
IS THIS YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVE?
YEAH

OH.
SHE WAS ILL THEN?
SHE DIED SICK.

AAH, UH.
THANKS FOR GIVING US ANA.

I'M ANA'S HALF SISTER!
MY MOM MARRIED YOUR HUSBAND!
OH
AAH... I'M CHI. PLEASED TO MEET YOU

H Anna
ANA!!


MOM SAID WE SHOULD COME PICK YOU UP!!
I love my Great plains hotel
CHI?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN SHIMANE?

I... what your mom plans a trip to Hawaii... at times!
YOU'RE TOO OLD TO SKIP WORK AND RUN OFF!
OH
OH

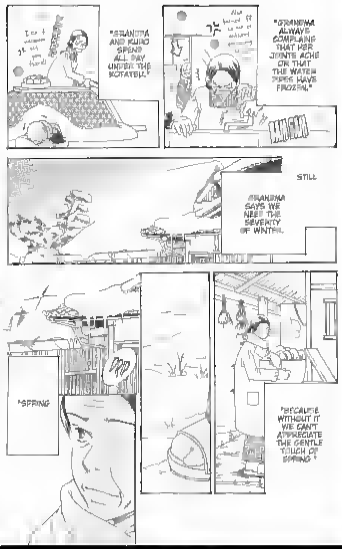
"... AND I LOVED HER VERY MUCH!
"FINALLY
"I THINK I CAN FORGIVE HER."

I THINK
I SORTA LIKE HER A LOT!
BUT I MISS HER WHEN SHE'S GONE!
SHE'S A REAL PAIN SOMETIMES...
MAY YOU REST IN PEACE...
WHAT WAS YUKI'S MOM LIKE?
HM?
SHE WAS VERY KIND...

"AS USUAL..
"SHIMANE GOT HEAVY SNOW. OF SNOW THIS YEAR."

I'M HOME!
I'M HOME!
DINNER IS READY!!
GASP
SMILE
HUG
I WANT A LOT
IT'S SNOWING
LOOK

"... WILL ALWAYS RETURN..."
TO THE WORLD.
CHIP CHIP CHIP
"... AND MELT THE SNOW."
End of term
I'M GOING TO HAND OUT YOUR REPORT CARDS NOW
HEEEEY
OASHIMA


I'm a woman of my word, you know!
"ASANUMA AND KUNO SPEND ALL DAY UNDER THE KOTATSU."
Also known as an object surrounded by blankets
"GRANDPA ALWAYS COMPLAINS THAT HER JOINTS ACHE OR THAT THE WATER PIPES HAVE FROZEN."
SHIVER
STILL
GRANDMA SAYS WE NEED THE SEVERITY OF WINTER.
*SPRING
"BECAUSE WITHOUT IT WE CAN'T APPRECIATE THE GENTLE TOUCH OF SPRING."

I'M GONNA TELL MS. YOSHI!
AN OLD GIRLFRIEND? OR BOY SOMEONE YOU PROMISED?
BUT ANN GAVE THAT TO YOU.
YOU SHOULD KEEP IT!
MS YOSHI !!!
HEHEHE
...I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT SO YOU'LL REMEMBER ME...
BUT I THINK SHE REALLY...
WANTED YOU TO HAVE IT

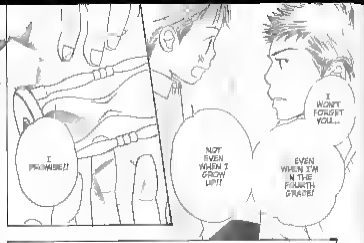
AARGH!
COME UP WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME
HERE!
TAKUMI ARAICHI.

MY GRADE IN P.E. WENT UP
HIKARU
OH
HIKARU ITAGAKI.
HIKARU!

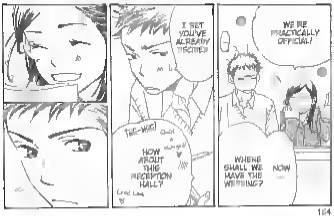
TAKUMI?
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANNA GIVE YOU.
YES?
GOOD JOB.
ON THE HORIZONTAL BAR

HEY
ARE YOU HAPPY?
OF COURSE!!

THE FAREWELL PARTY STARTS AT FIVE, RIGHT?
KAAA SSH
MM.
YEAH.
KITAMURA


I PROMISE!!
NOT EVEN WHEN I GROW UP!!
EVEN WHEN I'M IN THE FOURTH GRADE!
I WON'T FORGET YOU...

HOW CUTE
Daisy and Daryl
Jacobyn!
Elyn Dingo
Tiyal


I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY THOUGHT
HOW ABOUT THIS RECEPTION HALL?
WE'RE PRACTICALLY OFFICIAL!
WHERE SHALL WE HAVE THE WEDDING?
NOW

"I WISH I COULD SEE YOU.
MAKE SURE YOU GET IN TOUCH WHEN YOU'RE BACK IN JAPAN, OKAY?
Canada
HOW IS EVERYTHING IN CANADA?
BAM
I'VE GOT TO CATCH THE EARLY TRAIN.
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
WHO.
TURNED OFF MY ALARM?!!
Hurry up Dad!
"BUT THE PAST NEVER WRAP FEARS."
TOK
"MY FACT
"IS WHAT'S HOLDING ME BACK."
"YOU CAN'T TURN BACK TIME

HERE ARE THE DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE.
STARTS AT TEN O'CLOCK
I'LL BE READY!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT
SORRY TO CALL YOU IN SO EARLY
ANN, ABOUT YOUR WRIST
TAP
TAP TAP
TOILET
NO WAY!
FOR REALITY!
I appreciate your help with my cut
IF YOU'RE GOING TO INSIST IT'S "SHRINKAGE," YOU BETTER ACT LIKE IT
PEOPLE ARE TALKING

NGYAAH
HAVE A NICE DAY!
OH, YOUR LUNCH IS ON THE WASHSTAND!!
BAM
WHO SHUT OFF MY ALARM?!!
YOU DID!!
GOOD MORNING
MS. SAKAMOTO
GOOD MORNING
KOH

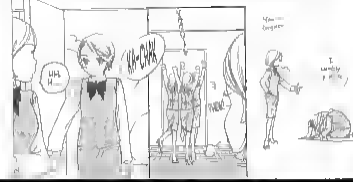
I MEAN, GIVE IT A REST!!
ANYWAY
WHY'S SHE SO OBSESSED WITH WORK? SHE MAKES THE REST OF US LOOK BAD!
IT'S HALF TRUE...
HA HA...
KUNK
WHAM
LISTEN UP, ALL OF YOU!!
URASAWA !?
DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN TO SHUT UP?!

AAAGH
IT LOOKS FRESH!
A BIG CUT PEEKING THROUGH THE BANDAGE.
I SAW IT!
I'M SERIOUS!
SHE DIDN'T GET HURT HERE, WAS SHE!?
OH!
I WANNA KILL MYSELF TOO IF A BIG-SHOT BUSINESSMAN BROKE OFF OUR ENGAGEMENT
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, RIGHT?
THAT WOULD SUCK!!
YEP
SORRY, LIL'?
SHE'S HURT!
OH, WELL...
OH, THAT HURTS!
THE ONES WHO LOOK TOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT
YOU KNOW, LIL', WORRY ME OR I'LL KILL MYSELF!!

I'LL LAUGH IT OFF
Why not?
Sweat
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
DON'T MIND THEM, ANN. THE MUNCHIES WILL BE BROWN
I JUST THINK WE SHOULD ALL GET ALONG BETTER!!
Yeah
Yeah
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
LIKASHIMA, YOU'RE A TOUGH COOKIE!
Um
I WASN'T REFERRING YOU EXACTLY

YOU'RE AVAILABLE, RIGHT?
HUH?
YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU SHOULD COME WITH US TO MEET THOSE GUYS.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!!
You is dating a lot guys before!
I CAN'T TALK TO GUYS FROM THE OK MINISTRY!!

DA-
DUM
MINISTRY
HEY!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA TALK TO ME LIKE THAT WHEN...
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
CUT IT OUT ALREADY!!
Bam
WHOAAAA
SLAMMED
ELITE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
I GOT US ALL DATED WITH MEN FROM THE MINISTRY OF OK?!


UHH...
KA-CHUNK
Yawn
Computer
I wonder if it...

DOOM !!!
EVERY TIC AGE 15
D-DOOM
CHANCE
T.M. HIME
HI, ANJU
GUESS WHAT ?
POTATO BROCHU PLEASE!
CAN'T ENDURE IT
THE MINISTRY OF OX...!!
ENDURE IT

I WONDER WHAT'S FOR LUNCH TODAY
WHOA!
PAIN CAUSED BY AN ELITE
MUST BE HEALED BY ANOTHER ELITE
IT'S COMMON KNOW-LEDGE!!
DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH
GOT IT EVERY ONE?
KEEP A WIDE STRIKE ZONE.
RE-PEAT AFTER ME !!
AGH
WHOA!
YOU'RE IN LA MAN
GOT IT
WON'T AIM TOO HIGH!!
HAHA
REMEMBER, IT'S NOT THE FACKADING THAT COUNTS!!
READY EVERYONE ?!

I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH !!!
YOU HARDLY EVER CAME BACK
Are you in an international company?
OF COURSE SHE DOES!
You're my cousin, it's your duty!
WELL THAT WOULD BE ONE WAY TO LIVE
WHENEVER I COME BACK MOM TRIES TO MARRY ME OFF!
BUT...
NEXT I'M GOING TO AMERICA TO WORK FOR MY UNCLE
HUH!?
MY PARENTS PUT UP A FIGHT
I'VE BEEN STUDYING ECONOMICS
BUT MY MIND IS MADE UP!

A LETTER CAME FOR YOU!
IT'S FROM SHIKA!!
PUMP
DEAR MOM...
"HOW ARE THINGS?
"I'M COMING BACK TO JAPAN SOON."
SHIKA!!
HI!

SHIKA...
YOU'VE CHANGED.
YOU'RE STRONGER.
WELL, I'LL PROBABLY START TO WORRY AGAIN SOMETIME.
I WAS ALWAYS SO PASSIVE.
BEING A TSUKISHIMA WAS SUFFOCATING ME.
FROM NOW ON I WANT TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE TSUKISHIMA FAMILY
I WANT YOU...
...THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
WITH PRIDE.
SHIKA-WAY...
ECO-
NO-
SAY WHAT?!
HE'S... SURPRISED?
I'M...
HICS?!
I GOT AWAY AND LEFT JAPAN BEHIND.
WENT OVERSEAS TO START OVER.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME, ANN?
YOU SAID THE PROBLEM IS INSIDE YOURSELF.
YOU HAVE TO CHANGE YOURSELF
ALL THOSE YEARS
I ONLY WANTED TO RUN AWAY FROM THE TSUKISHIMA FAMILY

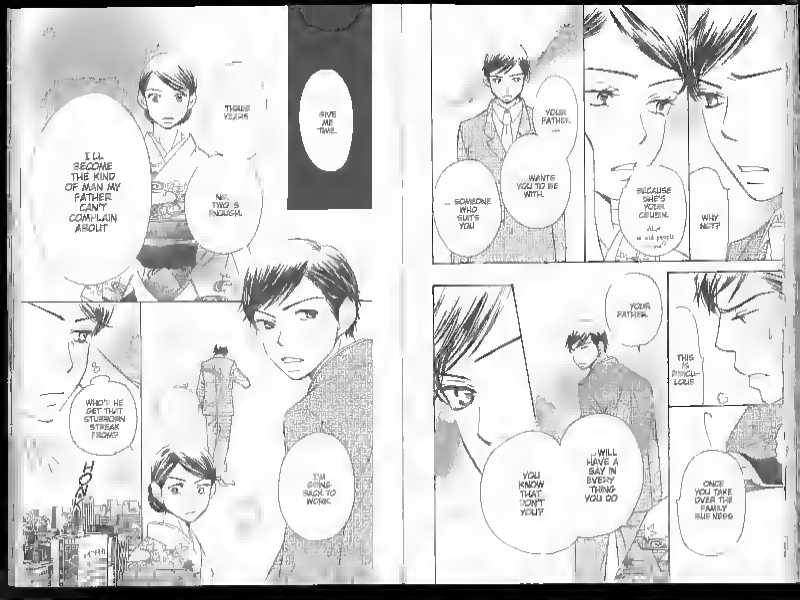
I'LL MARRY A WOMAN I LOVE.
BUT NOT MARIKO.
SHE'S 18! AND TOO GOOD FOR YOU!
LOOK HOW YOUNG SHE IS!
WHEN THE TIME COMES!
WHAT IS THIS?! I CAUGHT OUT OF WORK BECAUSE YOU SAID IT WAS URGENT!!!
WE'RE HERE TO MEET YOUR POTENTIAL FUTURE WIFE!!

WHEN I DID
CAN I TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT?
OF COURSE!

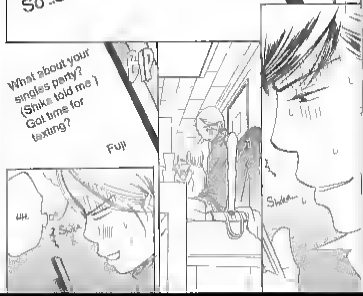
I HAVE TO GO TO A SINGLES PARTY
I BETTER GET GOING I HAVE PLANS WITH MY FAMILY
OKAY

FUJI.
IS IN A BIT OF A TIGHT SPOT TODAY
P
O
K

OH, ABOUT THAT
SAY HI TO FUJI FOR ME
HE SEEMS REALLY BUSY WITH WORK. I HOPE THINGS ARE GOING WELL WITH MARIKO.


THREE YEARS
NO, TWO IS ENOUGH.
I'LL BECOME THE KIND OF MAN MY FATHER CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT
GIVE ME TIME.
WHO'S HE GET THAT STUBBORN STREAK FROM?
I'M GOING BACK TO WORK.
YOUR FATHER...
WANTS YOU TO BE WITH...
SOMEONE WHO SUITS YOU
BECAUSE SHE'S YOUR COUSIN.
WHY NOT?
YOUR FATHER.
I WILL HAVE A SAY IN EVERY THING YOU DO
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?
THIS IS PSYCHO-LOGIC
ONCE YOU TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BLUE NOSE

So ..did you find a wife? (lol)
Ann



... YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME LIKE YOU TOTALLY WANTED ME.
WELL, BECAUSE
OH.
WHY DID YOU ASK ME OUT?
I was told to be
I KNOW THE TYPE
TOILET
HA HA HA HA HA
SUPER CONFIDENT!!
I am an aggressive woman
THEY'RE TOUGH
WOMEN ARE NOTHING IF NOT CLEVER.
KEEP HIM UNTIL YOU FIND SOMEONE ELSE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I WON'T BE SEEING HIM AGAIN...
My name is Kanojyo.

A NORMAL OFFICE GIRL NOW!
SO THEN.
HUH
Uh Hi, lots of interest
MEP. I'M A STRAIGHT SHOOTER.
OH.
THEY'RE SO UNSURE OF THEMSELVES. THEY'LL FUCK DOWN IN A SECOND
I TOLD THEM ALL OFF.
AND THEY STARTED BOWING LIKE CRAZY
WHAT FANTASTIC, SMALL PEOPLE...
UH! OH.
UM.
I mean, I'm a real man who is a classy man.
THIS IS BORING

...CONSIDERING HOW CLOSE YOU WERE TO GETTING MARRIED, YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT BE WORSE BUT
WELL
I WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE
NO.
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M DOWN AT THE MOMENT.
IS SHE TRYING TO COMFORT ME?
I SAY!
YOU CERTAINLY BOUNCE BACK EASILY!
I MET THIS GUY...
MASTER MASTER
UH, SORRY!

TAP TAP
TAP TAP
SIGH
UH...
YES?
MS. MINASE
HOW ABOUT A DRINK AFTER WORK?
OKAY
SINCE...
LONG AGO...
I WENT THROUGH A RUTHLESS BREAKUP MYSELF.

GROWING OLD...
...MEANS MORE MEMORIES
BUT...
I LIKE WHO I AM NOW TOO
SOME-TIMES,
YOU'RE MADE UP OF THIS MEMORY AND THAT MEMORY AND OTHERS TOO
IT WOULD BE A WASTE...
TO FORGET THEM.

IT WAS NOTHING
TOO LATE!!
ABOUT WHAT?
TELL ME ABOUT
THE KIND OF THING EVERYONE GOES THROUGH
OH, COME ON! PLEASE?
I WANNA KNOW
YOU MENTIONED
THE BREAKUP

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME.
BUT
YOU WISH
YOU COULD GO BACK TO THAT TIME?
I ACTED SO NAIVE AND FOOLISH.
THAT WAS THE FIRST AND LAST TIME

I CARED ABOUT SOME-ONE
HE CARED ABOUT ME
I AM THIS MEMORY AND THAT MEMORY AND OTHER MEMORIES TOO
Hope to meet you again. I will be looking forward to the rest of our lives. Anne.

I CRIED I GOT MAD I LAUGHED

SCATTERED PHOTOS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GYA
HA HA HA
WHOA! WHAT'S THIS ONE?!
THEY'VE BEEN SITTING IN A DRAWER FOREVER.
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
I thought you were always on my mind.
SO YOU WERE A KID ONCE TOO....

I SEE...
HOW PRECIOUS MY LIFE IS.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT...

NO.
BOYFRIEND?
LOOKS LIKE IT.
THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU?
Sorry. I found someone else to break up with me. Sayonara.
TEARS
MEANWHILE
DELETE
THAT'S ONE MORE
A TRIP?
LET'S GO..
TO SHIMANE! TO HEAL MY BROKEN HEART!
ON A TRIP TOGETHER...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA, CHI!

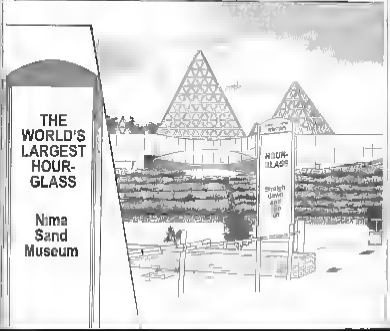
...SHIKA...
...MY PUSH.
THAT'S HARD.
LIL' CHI...
TELEPHONE
IT'S FROM GUY YAMA.
YAMA
HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE WE WENT OUT THAT TIME.
IN SHIMANE WHEN WE WERE 12.
HMM...

THE FEEDMILL TURN A HUE PINK.
YOKEIRIN BLOSSOMS !!
KLAK
ARE THEY SOME YOSHINO THERE?
NO.
I THINK THEY'RE YAMA ZAKURA.
KLAK
SPRING...
KLAK

OH, THAT'S A SKIING SONG
SHUSSHING DOWN THE SLOPE SNOWFLAKE IN THE AIR.
YAHOO!
KLAK
LET'S GO TO NARA.
TO SEE THE ONE YEAR HOURGLASS !!
LOOK, SIR!
LOOK!
CHERRY BLOSSOMS !!
KLAK
KLAK

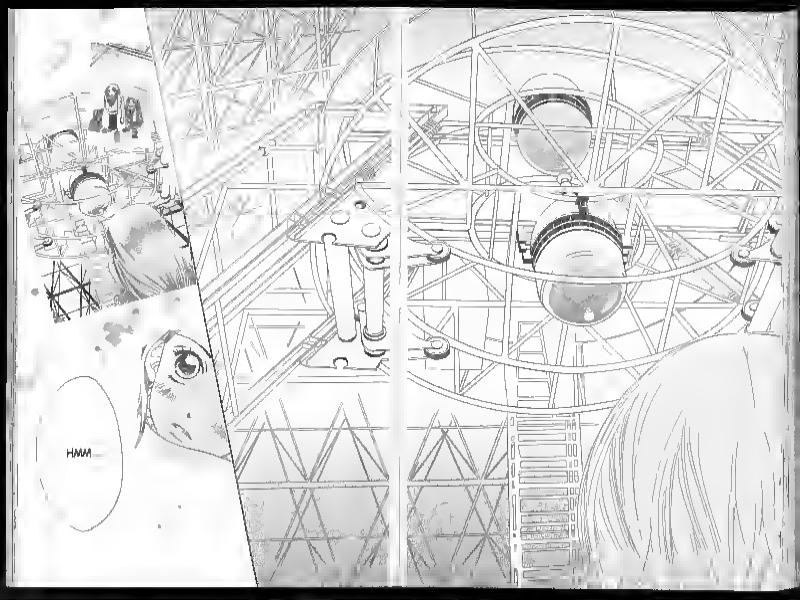
WHAT IS IT CLOSED?
DON'T WORRY I CHECKED AHEAD OF TIME!!

AINN!
Hang up
Sure away


THE WORLD'S LARGEST HOUR-GLASS
Nima Sand Museum
HOUR-GLASS

SUMMER
FALL
AND WINTER

ママ


HMM...

OH, MINDING SAND?
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
IT BRINGS BACK SO MANY MEMORIES
Ch. was here
WATCH

I THOUGHT THE SAME THING WHEN I WAS 14.
CAN YEARS GO BY FASTER THAN I THOUGHT
IT'S BEEN 14 YEARS
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED
WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE
AND, I FEEL AT PEACE
THE NIGHT TIME I SAW IT

BUY ME AN HOURGLASS LIKE YOUNG !!
THERE'S THE SOUVENIR SHOP!
COME ON, ANN!
We'll miss the train!

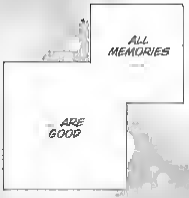
→ The End ←

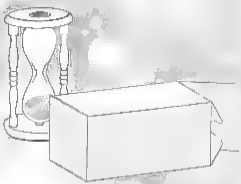
I guess Ann a lot of personal ity t a t And ordinarily my brother is much more usually assigned to the hero ic work — While this may have bothered some of you My thanks to everyone who read it a n I worked to the very end. This series isn't perfect so I feel very sorry that I got it w rit ten all the way to the end

I had a lot of help from my editor who's Advice was always spot on, my assistants who drew all the gorgeous backgrounds F ans, near to me like Shi, mami, Akabot-Hosan who helped me get the Okayama dialect right and so many others

Thank you so much to all of you!

10/2013 Hinako Ashihara



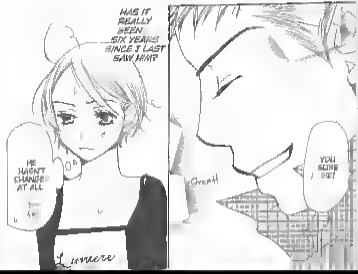


HEY
Hi Wha... you... ha...?

GRAND-MA
I'm ho...
WHERE IS MAMA?
AHH SCRUB ME AN HOURGLASS!
IN THE KITCHEN.
IS THAT MAISY?
TUG
YES, DAT?

BUT EVERY-THING'S ALL RIGHT NOW
I CAN FACE HIM
CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON YOUR MARRIAGE

MOM SENT ME ON AN ERRAND TO YOUR GRANDMA'S.
SHE SAID YOU'D BE HERE SO I THOUGHT I'D SURPRISE YOU.
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL IN OKAYAMA?
I'm now a master pot artist.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN SHIMANE?
I START TEACHING IN SHIMANE THIS APRIL.
It's be a permanent position.
TALK ABOUT A SURPRISE!!


HAS IT REALLY BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW HIM?
HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
I wasn't
Grrrr!
YOU SCARE ME!

I WANT YOU...
TO BE HAPPY
AND I'M HAPPY FOR YOU
I'M GLAD I CAN TELL YOU THAT IN PERSON.
UM.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MS YOSHI?
IT'S YUKI HEARD ABOUT HER FROM MY STUDENT?
UH...
IT'S JUST GOSSIP YOU KNOW
WHAT?!
I'M NOT MARRYING MS YOSHI
I DON'T MIND.
SORRY!
OH
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
JIN
I AM M...
YOU CAME, DIDN'T YOU ?
TO MY SCHOOL IN OKAYAMA?
Hi, Mr. M
On the sly

BUT RELATIONSHIPS...
SOME TIMES THEY START EASY
BUT THEY ALWAYS END UP BEING HARD.
THE WORLD IS FULL OF WOMEN WHO ARE MY TYPE!!
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T HAD ANY CHANCES IN THE LAST SIX YEARS, YOU KNOW!!
YEAH, WHO, EVER.
YEAH YOU SAID IT
WHAT ABOUT YINDY
NOTHING WORTH REPORTING
I USED TO HANG OUT AT THEIR PLACE A LOT
THE NEXT THING I KNEW WE WERE SPOTTED TOGETHER.
ANOTHER TEACHER NAMED CRANDON
THEY'RE LIVING TOGETHER.
I'M JUST
DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR ME!
LETTING IT SINK IN.
I WON'T!
EVEN MS. KAWASAKI SAID WE MAKE A GREAT COUPLE!
THE MORE I THINK IT THE WORSE IT LOOKS!
IT'S KAWASAKI
WHY THE SAD FACE?

NOW?!
IT WOULD NEVER WORK
NO. NOW IS THE BEST TIME!

YOU KNOW WHAT?
YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER
AT PLAYING THREE GAMES
LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER.
YOU AND ME.
I'LL JUST GET RIGHT TO THE POINT

I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
I CAN'T SAY
THAT I'M HAPPY RIGHT NOW
BUT WHAT IS "HAPPY"?
THERE'S A LID FOR EVERY BROKEN POT.
YOU'RE MY TYPE
ANYWAY
WE WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS
THAT WINTER
YOUR GRANDMA MADE ME PROMISE
TO BE HAPPY

SO
MAKE ME
HAPPY

AH!
AH!
IT'S OKAY.
MAKE YOU HAPPY?

"I WILL
" NEVER LEAVE YOU."

CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
CAN I?
I'VE NEVER HAD MUCH CONFIDENCE

I JUST WANT
YOU...
NEXT TO ME I MISS YOUR SMILE

YOU'RE ASKING ME...
YES, YOU.
TO MAKE YOU HAPPY?
YES.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I HAD TO FIND HAPPINESS ON MY OWN
WELL, YEAH, BUT...

...I'M NOT AFRAID ANY-MORE.
YES.
KLNCH
BUT NOW
JUST BEING WITH HIM WOULD BREAK MY HEART
PAT

I PROMISE.
I WILL.
MAKE YOU HAPPY!
HEH
?!
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?!
HEH HEH HEH
UH. Sorry
smile

WE'RE COMPLETE IDIOTS.
WELL, WHO CARES?
WE MAY BE STUPID...
I MEAN, THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING WE'VE GONE THROUGH.
BECAUSE WE MUST SEEM SO STUPID
Sniff
Sniff
Sniff
BUT AT LEAST...
I'M A LITTLE HAPPIER NOW

WE
WERE
...

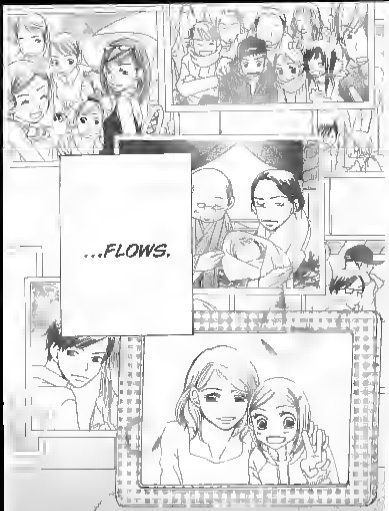
AND EVEN NOW...
WE GOT LOST AGAIN AND AGAIN
WE STUMBLED
...ALWAYS IN THE SAND.
CONFUSED... UNABLE TO SEE AHEAD CLEARLY...

BA
M
PUT ON YOUR PANTS !!
MMMMMMM
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
WHOOOSH
SUPPOSE TOY!
DON'T KICK THE DOOR OPEN !!!
DOING

ZSSSH
WE'RE STILL IN THE SAND
RYO!!

CATCH HIM!!!
WHEEE!

THE SAND...


...FLOWS.

...STILL
...

Glossary

If any adolescence came with an instruction manual,
We could give you that, but with a glossary at arms
might prove useful for this volume.

Page 14, panel 1: a tension
Potatoes, vegetables, pork or veal
vegetables simmered in a soy sauce broth.

Page 14, panel 2: kinpira gobo
Julienned burdock root that is sautéed and
simmered.

Page 22, panel 4: bönder bread
Bread made from brown flour.

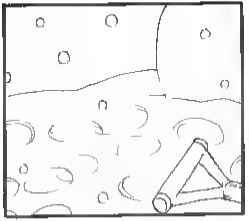
Page 83, panel 7: Zenzo
A Shinto fire festival where native children,
among other things, are ritually burned.

Page 87, panel 2: hotaru
A noble with a black and frontier
undergarments in the color of the mountain people
of the south with strings under the bladder.

Page 115, panel 3: oni shi
An alcoholic drink sometimes made from
potatoes.

Page 121, panel 4: miai
A meeting between two individuals
seeking a spouse and their families, like one
of the steps toward an arranged marriage.

Page 168, panel 2: a bird in every bushes gut
A proverb meaning that for every person
out there, no matter how weird, there's a
fitting partner.



Profile of Hinako Ashihara

This is the final volume! No, not really. The series will continue until volume 10. After this one, though, the stories will be bonus stories.

Now you're in the know.
—Hinako Ashihara

Hinako Ashihara won the 50th Shogakukan Manga Award for *Sunadokei*. She debuted with *Sono Hanashi Okotowari Shimasu* in *Bessatsu Shojo Comics* in 1994. Her other works include *SOS*, *Forbidden Dance*, and *Tennen Bitter Chocolate*.